



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
McDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**April 4, 2013**

**Florence Ely Nelson Desert Park  
8950 E. Pinnacle Peak Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** James Heitel, Chairman  
Fred Klein, Vice Chairman  
Mike Milillo, Commissioner  
Marg Nelssen, Commissioner  
Con Englehorn, Commissioner

**ABSENT:** Susan Wheeler, Commissioner  
Robert Frost, Commissioner

**STAFF:** Bill Murphy  
Kroy Ekblaw  
Scott Hamilton  
Claire Miller  
Robbin Schweitzer  
Liz Hildenbrand

**GUESTS:** Mike Nolan  
Jack McEnroe  
David Hay  
Howard Myers  
Rebecca Eickley  
Cynthia Wenstrom  
Carol Burton

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Heitel called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members present as noted above.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** *(Begins at 5:06 p.m.; approximately 30 seconds into the meeting.)*

Howard Meyers mentioned the flora and fauna and the refurbished trail at Little Granite Mountain. He suggested that if workers using motorized vehicles are working at Tom's Thumb that it be posted to avoid confusion with those people who are using motorized vehicles illegally. He suggested that the City use the recent wildlife study to make an off limits hunting recommendation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of March 7, 2013

**COMMISSIONER NELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 7, 2013 MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY VICE-CHAIR KLEIN, THE MOTION CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).**

4. **PRINCIPLES FOR CIVIL DIALOGUE INITIATIVE** *(Presentation begins at 5:10 p.m.; approximately 4 minutes into the meeting.)*

Cynthia Wenstrom from Scottsdale Leadership gave a presentation explaining the Principles for Civil Dialogue. The three principles are to listen, speak respectfully, and be accountable for words and actions.

Commissioners were given the opportunity to make comments.

**COMMISSIONER MILLILO MOVED TO ADOPT THE PRINCIPLES FOR CIVIL DIALOGUE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NELSEN, THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).**

5. **UPDATE ON NORTH AREA ACCESS CONTROL PLAN AND STATUS** *(Begins at 5:19 p.m.; approximately 13 minutes into the meeting.)*

Ms. Hildenbrand noted that the motorized vehicles sighted at Tom's Thumb belong to workers working on areas that have erosion. She gave an update on efforts being made to control motorized vehicle use in the north area, including pipe rail fencing and boundary signage.

Discussion ensued regarding parking and road maintenance at Granite Mountain Trailhead and 136th Street.

**6. PRESENTATION ON "BETTER LIVING WITH TRAILS"** *(Begins at 5:38 p.m.; approximately 32 minutes into the meeting.)*

Carol Burton from the Bike Patrol gave a presentation outlining the importance of mountain biking to the Preserve, the City, tourism, the economy, and trail users.

**7. TRANSIT SERVICE TO TRAILHEADS** *(Begins at 5:53 p.m.; approximately 42 minutes into the meeting.)*

Mr. Murphy provided a brief history of efforts that have been made through Parks and Recreation to offer transit from the southern areas to the Preserve. He discussed the Transportation Department budgetary reductions and route changes that have happened in recent years and the Federal funding restrictions that will be in place for the new fleet of vehicles that will be in operation in October. A random one-day survey was conducted that indicated that it could be cost-prohibitive to provide a Preserve transport route at this time. The City will continue working with the Conservancy to promote Preserve activities to potential users in the southern areas of Scottsdale.

Commissioners were given the opportunity to make comments and ask questions.

**8. FUTURE LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITIES IN THE NORTH AREA** *(Begins at 6:08 p.m.; approximately 1 hour and 2 minutes into the meeting.)*

Mr. Ekblaw presented a revised map of the remaining prominent lands left for acquisition within the recommended study boundary. He explained that the larger parcels are divided on the map into smaller segments because the State Land Department would not accept an application for a large parcel, in part because with the improving economy they expect to get maximum value out of the land. Mr. Ekblaw said that he plans to take the revised map to the State Land Department to get input on the parcelization and then bring it back to the Commission for final priority recommendations before asking Council for approval of future applications.

Discussion ensued regarding priorities and future funding.

Howard Myers commented about the original Desert Task Force recommendations, the importance of tourism in the Preserve effort, and voiced his priority recommendations.

It was the consensus of the Commission to have further discussion once Mr. Ekblaw has gotten input from the State Land Department on the revised prioritization.

**10. STAFF REPORTS**

- **Project updates - Lost Dog, Plant Signs** *(Begins at 6:35 p.m.; approximately 1 hour and 29 minutes into the meeting.)*

Ms. Hildenbrand noted that there were more than 15 steward projects, three corporate projects and six or seven trail maintenance and revegetation projects during March. She presented photographs of the ongoing trail improvements and plant identification signage as well as the new restroom floors at Lost Dog Wash Trailhead.

Mr. Ekblaw said that discussions are ongoing regarding a possible partnership with the school district to have shared parking for Lost Dog at Anasazi Elementary School.

- **Commercial Guided Motorized Tours status only Project updates -**  
*(Begins at 6:46 p.m.; approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes into the meeting.)*

Mr. Ekblaw noted that he is working with the City Attorney's office and expects to have options for allowing guided motorized tours by the May 2nd meeting.

- **DDC status only Commercial Guided Motorized Tours status only Project updates** *(Begins at 5:38 p.m.; approximately 1 hour and 41 minutes into the meeting.)*

Mr. Ekblaw noted that Mr. Sather is in the process of reviewing the additional site recommendations and he reviewed the results of the DDC survey completed by Commissioners.

**11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS** *(Begins at 6:49 p.m.; approximately 1 hour and 49 minutes into the meeting.)*

**A. Chairman's item for future consideration - Transit service to trailhead(s)**

Discussion on transit service to trailheads was covered in an earlier presentation.

Vice-Chair Klein noted the importance of considering whether or not motorized vehicles of any kind should be allowed in the Preserve when discussing the allowance of jeep tours.

**12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR MAY 2, 2013**

- **Future Acquisition Priorities**
- **Commercial Guided Tours - Motorized - Spring/Summer**
- **Future Land Cost Benefit Study Process - Spring/Summer**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.